

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**MARC**

*"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"*

**AUGUST 1993**

### UPGRADES FROM JULY TESTING

Kevin Albright	Napoleon	NC Tech
Leonard Burton	Seymour	Tech
Melinda Caster	Greensburg	NC Tech
Jennifer Harris	Westport	Tech
Sharon Harris	Westport	Tech
Bill McCullen *	Mooreville	Advanced

\*indicates member MARC

### BIG BREAK FOR THE NOVICE!

How long did you have to wait to receive your Novice ticket after you had passed all the requirements? Many in our area have gone through the frustration of not being able to transmit until the license actually arrives in the mail. The FCC gets a lot of calls from anxious new hams inquiring about the status of their application. After all, any licensed ham can use their new privileges as soon as they pass a new test. Why can't the new novice?

Well, maybe there's an answer on the way! The FCC is considering issuing a temporary license for the new novice to use until his official license arrives. It will consist of a special call sign followed by a 2 letter code (possibly KN or AN). Of course the new rules would exclude anyone who has ever had a FCC license suspended or revoked.

It may be a while before this happens, but there is a good possibility that the FCC will approve this breakthrough for the new novice! At this time it is uncertain if this would also include the NC Tech.

### BUSINESS RULE TO CHANGE

The FCC has amended its rules to allow Amateur Operators more flexibility to provide communications for public service projects and "to enhance the value of amateur service in satisfying personal communications needs."

The new rules are based on a commission proposal announced in a notice of proposed rulemaking in July, 1992, a proposal resulting from an ARRL request. The League at that time suggested that new language for the rules would permit amateurs greater flexibility in providing non-commercial communications while maintaining the traditional character of amateur radio by continuing to prohibit routine business communications.

The commission in announcing the rules change said the new rules would permit amateurs to "facilitate events such as races and parades, to support educational activities, to provide personal communications such as making appointments and ordering food, to collect data for the National Weather Service, etc." The FCC said that generating a list of the thousands of possible examples would unduly tax the staff of the commission.

The new rules will not go into effect until the actual wording is available from the FCC. In the meantime hams can start thinking about how they can take advantage of this long-needed wider interpretation of the No Business Rule!

### NEW MEETING DATE!

This month the meeting date will be one week later because of a conflict with the Equestrian event. **THE VE TESTING DATE WILL NOT CHANGE!**

## PIRATE BROADCASTER FINED

A Berkley California man has been fined \$20,000 for operating an unlicensed radio station. His answer to the government's order to cease and desist has been to start training others in the art of pirate radio broadcasting. Stephen Dunifer told the Cable News Network that he wants to see so many unlicensed micro-power stations on the air that it is impossible for the FCC to shut all of them down. Dunifer believes that the airwaves have been taken over by corporate interests leaving little of interest to the general public that is not interested in traditional broadcasting and programming.

To bring his point home, Dunifer not only operates his own mobile pirate broadcast station, but also holds seminar sessions where he teaches anyone who is interested how to build, set up and maintain their own low power station from readily available kits. His own station that was shown in the CNN report appears to be built of over-the-counter items, many of which can be purchased at any local Radio Shack.

But the FCC's San Francisco Field Operations Bureau is far from impressed! It believes that operators like Dunifer are a peril to public safety and must be stopped. Marti-Volkoff says that the FCC now possesses the technology to locate any radio transmitter in a matter of moments and indicated to CNN that the time it takes to put one off the air is no more than the drive over to the location of the unlicensed transmitter.

Dunifer, who is not a ham, contends that the \$20,000 fine is unreasonable and has already filed an appeal.

## COMMERCIAL VEC EXAMS

A ham radio VEC has been chosen to administer commercial FCC tests. The Federal Communications Commission announced on June 18 that nine organizations will manage their newly privatized commercial radio operator license examination program. The first to be chosen was The W5YI Group, Inc., of Dallas, Texas, which has sponsored Amateur Radio

exams since the all-volunteer testing program began. Over sixty groups applied to become Commercial Operator License Examination Managers.

The FCC did not establish an exam fee schedule. Instead potential commercial examination managers were required to submit their proposal for conducting privatized commercial radio testing. All requests for certification had to include qualifications, conflict-of-interest control, examination handling, geographic area covered and a proposed test fee structure.

## ENGLISH CHANNEL TUNNEL

The European-built English Channel Tunnel's first test train made the journey from France to Britain recently with ham radio operators taking to the air at both ends of the line to commemorate the event.

The train, which had 7 cars and was about half the length of the trains that will run on the public service, took 2 hours to complete the 23-mile journey from Calais in France to Folkestone in southern England.

The tunnel builders say that when the route opens in 1994 the journey will take less than 30 minutes. Trains will be the only transport through the tunnel. Automobiles and trucks will be carried by transport cars. If you worked the commemorative event, please QSL as you were directed.



### A FAMILIAR LOGO

During the last few months you have been seeing the above logo on all Mid-State materials. It is used on the letterhead, the Spark-Gap, and in a short time will be used on club items, such as caps, hats, etc.

The logo was designed by Jeff Sloman N1EWO for use in our monthly newsletter. It soon was being used for flyers, etc. We want to thank Jeff for this contribution to our organization. It has become a very recognizable symbol of the Mid-State club! The next time you see Jeff let him know how much we appreciate the new logo!

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## **AMATEUR RADIO INSURANCE**

What would you do if you had no insurance? For example, if you were in or around Florida when hurricane Andrew went through and destroyed the homes, businesses, and personal items of many in the area. You could have had many losses!

No matter where you live you can have a natural disaster! In Indiana we have tornadoes, high winds, thunderstorms and fires which can and will destroy at times! Consider the costs that follow from loss or damage to your amateur radio station and mobile equipment!

I was faced with such a loss! The tower at my home was destroyed by high winds in excess of 70 MPH in a storm that went through Johnson County in April of this year. I still don't have my tower up and running!

Your amateur radio equipment is an expensive investment and the cost of replacing it can be tremendous! I can say through personal experience that you should protect your investment. Don't leave your equipment to chance. Check with your insurance company to see if you are covered or ask your local radio club for information and advice. 73 Roy N9PFZ

Ed. note: Elsewhere in this publication is part 2 of a column on insurance by Dave Wendt, KA9OOH. Hams are encouraged to seriously consider the need to have adequate insurance on their towers and ham equipment!

## **LICENSE FEES REJECTED**

Several items of interest to radio amateurs are related to the just-passed omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (H.R. 2264). Items shepherded through Washington by the ARRL's Capitol team were very effective. One draft version of the bill would have imposed an annual regulatory fee on every licensed ham in the U. S. Through efforts by the ARRL Capitol team, the act, minus the fee for amateurs, was reported out of the Budget Reconciliation Conference Committee and was passed by the House and Senate.

In addition, the League also convinced the committee to accept provisions in the Emerging Telecommunications Technology Act requiring the input of amateurs in the future reallocation of radio spectrum that might affect amateurs.

ARRL president George Wilson, W4OYI, said that the regulatory fee issue alone is a big victory, since it would have been an administrative nightmare and would have cost radio amateurs millions of dollars per year.

The Conference also accepted, as proposed, language in the Senate's Emerging Telecommunications Technology act requiring the Secretary of Commerce to seek to avoid excessive disruption of existing use of shared Federal/Amateur radio frequencies.

## **CLUB ELECTIONS**

According to the club constitution election of new officers for the Mid-State club are to take place in September. In July the president appoints a nominating committee. In August the committee will present a slate of prospective officers to the membership. At this time (and only at this time) nominations can be made from the floor. Then in September the voting takes place.

At the July meeting our president Bob, N9IMP appointed the following to the nominating committee:

Lendel Cook, W9LNX (Chairman), Charlie Sears, N9MEW, Vernon Gill, N9QBO, and Joe Vergara, KA9ZPA.

This committee has had their meeting and will present the slate at the August 28th meeting.

## AMATEUR WINS STATE AWARD

Dan Mulford KA9DZM received the Amateur Of The Year award at the Indianapolis Ham Fest from the Indiana Radio Club Council. The award was presented by the president of the IRCC and the State Emergency Coordinator.

Also receiving praise was Mike Head WB9ZQE (member of MARC) who was the State Emergency Coordinator for many years, and helped bring Indiana's emergency readiness and state weather nets to present levels. Mike, who had a major part in the work of the Indy Hamfest, was awarded the special service award by the hamfest association for his devotion to amateur radio service throughout Indiana. Congratulations, Mike!

## THE FUTURE OF 6 METERS

2 meters is a popular CONGESTED band, but try to get a co-ordinated frequency for a new repeater!

Repeaters on higher frequencies are available but problems exist. Of course, some FM repeaters, etc. are found on 10 meters.

In some areas, amateurs are returning to 6 meters. New repeaters and packet BBSs are now located there. Good used equipment is available and like 10 Meters, when this band is open, DX is possible.

With the new 6 meter networks to the south and the southeast a whole new world is open through this band that is gaining in popularity!

If you haven't been on 6 for a while, a visit could surprise you. It seems that the 6 meters band DOES have a future!

## SUNDAY NIGHT NET DIRECTOR

Due to the confusion that happens often on sunday about "who has the net?", it has been necessary to appoint a Net Director. Our president, N9IMP has appointed Roy Barnes, N9PFZ to be in charge of the sunday event. It will be Roy's responsibility to either run the net or to arrange for someone to be net control when he has a conflict! Go get 'em Roy! We know you'll do a great job!

## HIGH SPEED PACKET

The ARRL had filed comments with the FCC on their proposal to define the responsibility for the content of amateur messages relayed by high-speed networks.

The FCC's proposal was in response to a number of petitions for rule making, and would establish "a compliance policy for amateur stations participating in automatic message forwarding systems, to hold the licensee of the station originating a message and the licensee of the first forwarding station primarily accountable for violative communications."

The petitions were filed following an incident in early 1991, when the operators of several amateur packet bulletin boards were cited by the Commission for forwarding what was characterized as a "commercial" message.

The proposal would modify current FCC rules, which provide accountability of each licensee for every transmission from the licensee's station, regardless of the configuration of the system of stations in a data network or whether the station is in repeater operation.

The League suggested that some fine tuning of the definitions of the terms "originator" and "first forwarder" was needed.

## NEW MEMBERS OF MARC

The following are new members to the Mid-State club since June. Club members are advised to update their club rosters and to welcome these new members when you see or hear them on the repeater.

Gerald Bowsher N9TUL	Edinburgh
James (Art) Pickett KA9ION	Columbus
W. C. (Bill) Goodall K9DBY	Indianapolis
Edward Conder N9IZN	Camby
Jack Voiles KB9IPY	Morgantown
John Phillips NV9A	Muncie
Maurice Roush K9LMF	Franklin
Patrick Lewis N0XFU	Indianapolis



## IS YOUR HAM GEAR INSURED?

### Part 2

-Dave Wendt KA9OOH

What about your towers and antennas? Well, whatever coverage you have on your home normally extends at least 10 per cent of that amount to cover on Appurtenant Private Structures, such as detached garages, mini barns, etc., and the policy definition of such structures generally includes towers, masts and antennas. Also, whatever perils and values apply to the house itself usually apply to these items, too, so "All Risk" and/or Replacement Cost on the house will also apply to your towers and antennas.

If you have a substantial "antenna farm", the 10 per cent extension can be increased, just like your contents amount. Again, read your policy or call your agent to make sure, since policies do vary. If you live in an apartment or condominium, or rent a mobile home, there obviously can't be an extension of the building amount, but there normally is some provision for covering such structures. Again, I have to repeat: read your policy or call your agent.

Now, what about gear in your car? Here's where it gets interesting, because there is no such thing as a "standard policy" when it comes to two-way radio equipment. My check of a number of auto insurance companies revealed a wide variation in the way they treat such equipment.

A few cover two-way radios automatically, some will add them for a charge, and a few won't cover them at all! One company told me that it normally charges extra for two-way radios, but makes a specific exception for amateur equipment; how's that for an enlightened attitude?

At any rate, you must first carry a coverage known as Comprehensive or Other Than Collision (OTC) on your car to have any coverage on your mobile radio. Your home policy normally won't extend to equipment mounted in the car. If you have Comp or OTC, you have to read the policy (or call your agent) to find out whether it will include your radios; if you don't carry that coverage, you probably can't cover

the radios under your auto policy.

What do you do if you can't include your mobile radios in your auto policy, and they aren't covered by your home policy? (And they almost certainly are not!) There are two possible ways, other than just hoping no one rips you off:

One, you can take out an Inland Marine "floater" policy on them. For this, you list the specific items by name and serial number and place a value on each one. The "floater" normally covers the listed property anywhere in the world against "all risks", but the rate most companies charge verges on extortion, sometimes as much as 10 per cent of the amount insured!

If you don't belong to the ARRL, this is the best, but most expensive, way to make sure the listed items are covered: Check with the company that writes your home insurance, since you have some "clout" there, and few companies will write this kind of policy by itself.

Second, if you do belong to ARRL, you can take out their equipment policy. The coverage is "all risk" with a reasonable \$50 deductible, the coverage is for Replacement Cost, and the rate is a modest \$1.25 per \$100 of coverage at the time of writing. You do have to insure all your gear, except towers, rotors and antennas (they're not covered by the ARRL policy); this is to prevent you insuring only the most loss-prone items, like mobile rigs. I've heard some reports that this policy is sometimes slow to pay off after a loss, but I can't verify this.

Any items that you insure specifically under either type of policy can be omitted from your home insurance amount, since taking out a specific policy automatically excludes the listed items from a more general-coverage policy.

1. Read your policies or call your agent or company to find out how well (and whether!) your equipment is covered.

2. If your insurance amount isn't adequate, get it increased immediately!

3. If you can't cover mobile rigs in your car through your auto insurance, take out a specific policy, either Inland Marine or ARRL.

-KA9OOH

8/93





## HAVE YOU HEARD

\*\*\*\* A tourist celebrating the Fourth of July holiday in Washington, D.C. got lost in front of the Lincoln Memorial and asked a policeman for directions. "What side is the State Department on?" The policeman replied, "Ours, I hope."

\*\*\*\* *Democracy:* Where it's your vote that counts. *Feudalism:* Where it's your count that votes!

\*\*\*\* Immigration official: "Do you advocate the overthrow of the United States government by violence or subversion?" The lady thought a while and said, "Violence, I think."

\*\*\*\* A man spending his vacation fishing tried every fancy lure he owned, but at the end of the day he hadn't even felt a nibble. Finally in frustration he took out his wallet, pulled out a handful of dollar bills, and threw them into the water. "There!" he yelled. "Go buy something you like!"

\*\*\*\* Remember the furor that arose during Game Two of the World Series last year, when the Canadian flag was raised upside down? The Toronto Star reported the next day that they were surprised to receive only about forty phone calls. They guessed they would receive a lot more, but people kept dialing 6 instead of 9.

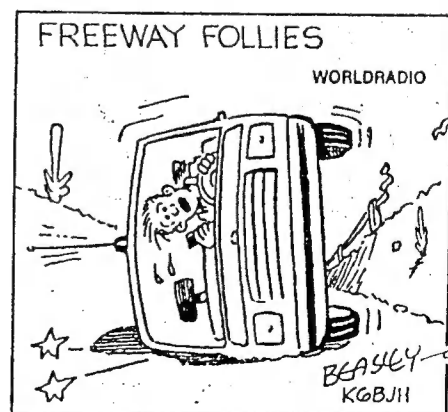
\*\*\*\* A Coast Guard cutter frantically tried to tune in on a faint distress signal from a sinking pleasure boat. "What is your position?" the radio operator shouted into the microphone. "Repeat, what is your position?" A faint voice crackled over the static, "I'm executive vice-president of Global bank...but could you please hurry?"

\*\*\*\* A woman died and went to heaven- which was more beautiful than she'd ever imagined. She couldn't wait to show it to her husband because he was an eternal pessimist. A year later her husband died and joined her and she took him on a tour. "Isn't heaven really beautiful?" she asked. He surveyed Paradise briefly then said, "Sure. And if it weren't for you and your blasted oat bran, we'd have been here five years sooner!"

\*\*\*\* A fellow went to church on Sunday morning with his ears painfully burned and blistered. After services, the concerned preacher asked, "What in heavens name happened to you?" The fellow confessed that he had been laying on the couch all day Saturday watching baseball on TV and drinking something stronger than root beer. "I was engrossed in the game and my wife was ironing nearby," he said. "She left the room, leaving the iron near the phone. The phone rang.. and keeping my eyes glued to the game, I grabbed the hot iron and put it to my ear, thinking it was the telephone." The preacher said, "So how did the other ear get burned?" The answer: "I had no more than hung up and the guy called again!"

\*\*\*\* A very slow fellow answered an ad for the position of deputy sheriff. He was informed that he would have to take a test. The first question was, "What is one and one?" He answered, "Eleven!" The sheriff rolled his eyes and said, "What two days of the week begin with the letter T?" The reply was, "Today and tomorrow." The sheriff said, "One more question: Who shot Abraham Lincoln?" The answer was, "I don't know!" The sheriff said, "You go home and study up on that question!" When the slow fellow got home his wife said, "Did you get the job?" "Yup," he said. "They've already got me working on a murder case!"

\*\*\*\* A salesman was traveling down a country road when he saw a large group of people outside a house. He stopped and asked a person why the large crowd was there. A farmer replied, "Joe's mule kicked his mother-in-law and she died!" "Well," replied the salesman, "she must have had a lot of friends to attract so many people!" "Nope," said the farmer, "we just all want to buy his mule!"



I HOPE YOU CAN STILL COPY, FRANK,  
I JUST SWITCHED TO HORIZONTAL  
POLARIZATION!



## OFFICIAL OBSERVER

The Official Observer program has been sponsored by the League for over 50 years to help amateurs help each other. Official Observer appointees have aided thousands of amateurs to maintain their transmitting equipment and operating procedures in compliance with the regulations. The object of the OO (Official Observer) program is to notify amateurs by mail of operating/technical irregularities before they come to the attention of the FCC.

The OO is also the backbone of the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC's Field Operations Bureau. OOs are certified in the Auxiliary by passing a mandatory written examination.

The OO performs his function by listening rather than transmitting, keeping an ear out for such things as frequency instability, harmonics, hum, key clicks, broad signals, distorted audio, overdeviation, out-of-band operation, etc. The OO completes his task once the notification card is sent.

In hard-core rules violations cases, OOs refer problems to higher echelons of the Amateur Auxiliary, and may be requested to gather evidence for possible FCC enforcement actions. Requirements follow:

1. Must take and pass examination to be certified as a member of the Amateur Auxiliary, an FCC requirement, based on study of the ARRL's Amateur Auxiliary Training Manual.
2. Must be an ARRL Full Member and have been a licensee of Technician Class or higher for at least four years.
3. Must report to the OO Coordinator regularly on FSD-23.
4. Maintain regular activity in sending out advisory notices as needed.

The OO program is one of the most important functions of the League. A sincere dedication to helping our brother and sister amateurs is required for appointment.

Recruitment of new hams and League members is an integral part of the job of every League appointee. Appointees should take advantage of

every opportunity to recruit a new ham or member to foster growth of Field Organization programs, and our abilities to serve the public. (For an application form or further information, contact ARRL/HQ.)

## BEN'S WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

The Mississippi river flooding continues to dominate weather related news headlines. Record river crests were reported all along the Mississippi in Missouri and Illinois. Full damage reports will have to wait until the flood waters totally recede. But it's expected to be at least \$ 12 billion. The massive flood clean-up will continue for weeks and even months to come. As the flood crest continues moving south of Missouri, the Mississippi river becomes deeper and so the flooding along it should be less severe.

Where it hasn't been flooding, it's been scorching. Much of the east and west coasts have seen record heat this summer. With the summer heat, the term "heat index" gets used a lot. It's analogous to the "wind chill" used in winter. Both are apparent temperatures. In the case of the "heat index" higher humidity will boost your discomfort. For example, a 90 degree temperature with 85 per cent humidity results in a heat index of 117. Although it's rare in the eastern U.S., your heat index can be lower than your actual temperature! Take the same 90 degree temperature but with 20 per cent humidity and your heat index is 87.

Whatever the temperature and/or heat index, use caution in the heat. Slow down and drink lots of liquids. Perspiration is the way your body stays cool, so stay well hydrated. Avoid excessive exposure to the sun, especially in the early afternoon. Climatologically, July 1993 was a fairly typical summer month in central Indiana. Indianapolis averaged 77.2 degrees (1.8 degrees above normal). The month was close to normal in precipitation. The airport totaled 4.94 inches.

The outlook for August in Indiana calls for cooler than normal temperatures and slightly heavier than normal rainfall. We certainly have enjoyed almost fall-like conditions during the start of this month.

8/93

## HAM FINED FOR QRM



The FCC has fined William P. Irwin, K3CQR, \$2,000. The Commission's Vero Beach, Florida office said Irwin, 51, of De Bary, Florida, was found causing "willful and malicious interference" on or near 14.313 MHz over a period of months.

Irwin, a General class licensee, was issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for \$2,000. He was found and identified by the FCC on July 22, 1993, while he was operating from his residence, the FCC said in a release. The FCC inspected Irwin's station the next day. Irwin had identified himself on the air as "Raincoat Charlie," and had vowed on the air that "the Commission would never find him," the FCC said.

Robert McKinney, Engineer-in-Charge at the FCC's Vero Beach office, said "Some amateurs, it seems, have lost sight of the concepts 'good amateur practice' and 'enhance international good will' embodied in the purpose of the service. Mr. Irwin's sole purpose for being on the air appeared to many to be to harass and ridicule other amateurs in a particularly vulgar way.

"It is widely known, McKinney said, "that budget restraints limit the Commission's enforcement efforts; but blatant, repeated violations such as these will not be tolerated or go unpunished."

McKinney also said, however, that "It should be pointed out that a considerable number of concerned amateurs cooperated in the investigation. We appreciate the efforts of these amateurs as a community willing to take responsibility for being self-policing."

## MESSAGE CONTENT RULES

The ARRL has filed reply comments continuing in general to support an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making to define the responsibility for the content of amateur messages relayed by high speed networks, in PR Docket 93-85.

The League said that those parties who initially commented on the NPRM generally agreed that the originator and first store-and-forward station in a data message network are properly accountable for the content of a message.

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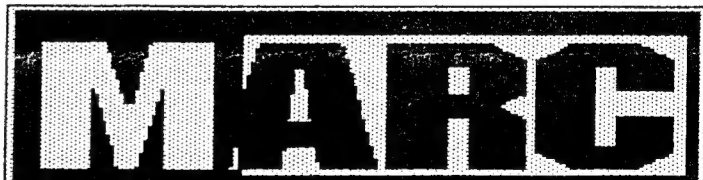
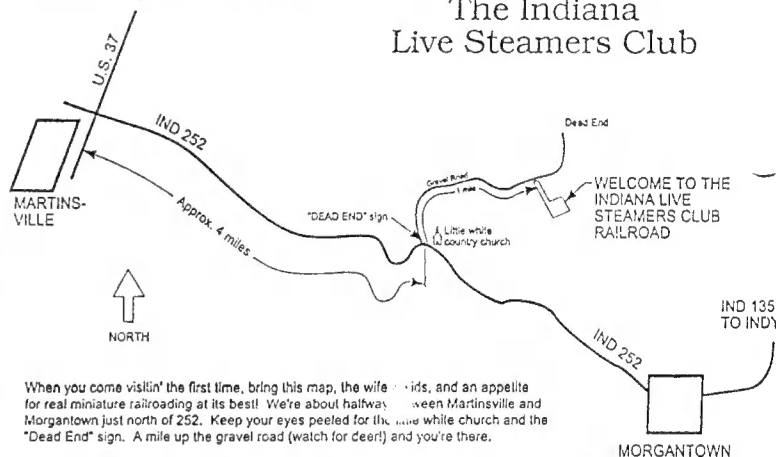
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## MAP FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Indiana  
Live Steamers Club



**Mid-State Amateur Radio Club**

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